



The Objection Process for the Santa Fe National Forest Decision Notice on a New Forest Management Plan

Members of the public who have been engaged in the forest plan revision process have an opportunity to file an objection before the new forest plan is approved. The final plan, final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and draft record of decision (ROD) will be available for public review on the Santa Fe National Forest website prior to their publication in the Federal Register. The 60-day objection period begins with the publication of the legal notice in the Albuquerque Journal.

Who can object?

Not everyone can submit an objection. Only individuals and entities that submitted substantive formal comments during earlier comment periods are eligible to file an objection. The objection must be based on the same concerns raised in the objector's earlier comments unless it concerns an issue that arose after the last formal comment period.

How do I file an objection?

If you submitted substantive formal comments earlier, the Santa Fe National Forest will notify you that the FEIS and draft ROD are available for your review and that the objection filing period is open.

Objections must include:

- the objector's name, address, telephone number and email address if available
- signature or other verification of authorship
- identification of the lead objector if multiple names are listed
- a reference to the *Santa Fe National Forest Plan* and the Responsible Official, *Debbie Cress, Forest Supervisor*
- a statement of the issues and/or parts of the plan revision the objection applies to
- a concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the draft plan decision may be improved
- a statement that demonstrates the link between the objector's prior substantive formal comments and the content of the objection
- any documents referenced in the objection

You can file by any of these methods:

- **CARA (Comment and Analysis Response Application) web form (preferred):**
<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=49605> (.doc, .docx, .txt, or .pdf format).
- **Email:** objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov with subject line Santa Fe National Forest Plan Revision Objection (.doc, .docx, .rtf, .txt, .pdf, or .html format).
- **Regular mail or hand delivery:** (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays): USDA-Forest Service Southwest Region, ATTN: Objection Reviewing Officer, 333 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102.
- **Fax:** 505-842-3173. Addressed to "Objection Reviewing Officer." The fax coversheet subject line should include "Santa Fe National Forest Plan Revision Objection" and specify the number of pages being submitted.

What happens next?

After the Regional Forester has verified your standing to file and reviewed your objection, she will use collaborative methods to discuss the objection with the forest and the objector. The intent is to reach a mutually-agreeable resolution.

The Regional Forester will issue a written response that may include additional direction for the Forest Supervisor to include in the final plan. The Regional Forester's written response is the final decision, and the Forest Supervisor can now approve the new plan and begin implementation.

